

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR MASS ETRD SZ

SUBJ: SALE OF NORTHROP F-5E AIRCRAFT TO SWITZERLAND

1. ON AUG 28, FEDERAL COUNCILOR RUDOLF GNAEGI (IN CHARGE OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT), CHIEF OF STAFF VISSER, AIR FORCE CHIEF BOLLIGER, AND ARMAMENTS CHIEF GROSSENBACHER WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE THE SUBMISSION TO PARLIAMENT BY THE FEDERAL COUNCIL OF A MESSAGE FORMALLY PROPOSING THE PURCHASE OF 72 TIGER AIRCRAFT AND THE APPROPRIATION OF 1,170 MILLION FRANCS FOR THAT PURPOSE. THEIR PREPARED STATEMENTS, AND THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE TO PARLIAMENT, RELEASED THE EVENING OF AUGUST 27, PROVIDE THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND SINCE THE 1972 DECISION TO POSTPONE THE PURCHASE OF A NEW GENERATION OF MILITARY AIRCRAFTV DISCUSS THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TIGER AND THE TRIALS TO WHICH IT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED; AND CONCLUDE THAT IT IS THE BUST BUY FOR SWITZERLAND IN TERMS OF COST AND OF ITS ABILITY TO PERFORM THE AIR SUPERIORITY AND GROUND SUPPORT ROLES FOR WHICH A NEW PLANE IS NEEDED.

2. THE PURCHASE IS TO CONSIST OF 66 F-5E SINGLE-SEATER AIRCRAFT AND SIX OF THE F-5F TWO-SEATER VERSION FOR TRAINING PURPOSES. NINETEEN OF THE AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING ALL SIX OF THE TWO-SEATERS, ARE TO BE DELIVERED FULLY ASSEMBLED FROM THE US IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1979, ASSUMING THAT PARLIAMENT APPROVES
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THE PURCHASE AND THE ORDER IS PLACED BY APR 1, 1976. FINAL

ASSEMBLY OF THE REMAINING 53 AIRCRAFT WILL BE PERFORMED AT THE FEDERAL AIRCRAFT FACTORY AT EMMEN, WITH DELIVERY BEGINNING IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1979 AND TERMINATING IN 1981.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE 1,170 MILLION FRANCS APPROPRIATION BEING REQUESTED AT THIS TIME, THE FEDERAL COUNCIL ESTIMATES THAT AN ADDITIONAL 150 MILLION FRANCS WILL HAVE TO BE REQUESTED IN THE FUTURE TO COVER COST INCREASES BETWEEN THE TIME THE ORDER IS PLACED AND THE DATE OF DELIVERY OF THE AIRCRAFT.

4. THE AGREEMENT ON COMPENSATORY QTE OFFSET UNQTE PURCHASES SIGNED JUL 9, 1975 IS DESCRIBED AT SOME LENGTH. GROSSEN-BACHER'S STATEMENT READS, IN PART, QTE THE AGREEMENT WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT..... PERMITS SWISS INDUSTRY (PRIVATE AND PUBLIC) TO OFFER, AND WE HOPE TO SELL, ITS PRODUCTS AND ITS KNOW-HOW ON PROPER COMPETITIVE TERMS. SHOULD OUR AERONAUTICAL INDUSTRY NOT BE ABLE TO PROFIT FROM THESE, TRANSACTIONS, IT IS FORESEEN THAT, IN A SECOND PHASE, COMPENSATION WOULD BE EFFECTED THROUGH (PURCHASES FROM OTHER SECTORS OF) SWISS INDUSTRY.... THE INITIAL SUBSTANTIVE INDUSTRIAL RESULTS OBTAINED SINCE THE SIGNATURE OF THE OFFICIAL AGREEMENT JUL 9, 1975 INDICATE THAT (WITH THIS AGREEMENT) WE ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK. UNQTE. THE MESSAGE TO PARLIAMENT STATES, INTER ALIA, QTE THE OBJECTIVE IS TO ASSURE.... THE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE COMPENSATORY PURCHASES, REPRESENTING AT A MINIMUM 30 PERCENT OF THE PRICE (OF THE AIRCRAFT). SWISS FIRMS MAY BID ON THE SAME TERMS AS AMERICAN FIRMS IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN ORDERS FROM NORTHROP AND GENERAL ELECTRIC AND THEIR SUB-CONTRACTORS, AS WELL AS FROM THE AMERICAN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, UNQTE.

5. DOCUMENTATION, IN GERMAN, POUCHED EUR/CE.
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